

When Jim was first proposed for the role of House Chaplain back in 1979, he was one of the few nominees for that position ever to be nominated by both the Republican and the Democratic caucuses. This bi-partisan support and admiration has continued throughout Jim's twenty year tenure as our Chaplain.

Those of us who have come to love Jim especially admire his zest for life, which he manifests through action rather than words. His legendary skill as a skier, his devotion to flying lighter than air aircraft, and his entire philosophy of living life to the fullest has long inspired us all.

Jim became Chaplain at a time when longer sessions and more work hours placed a strain on the family life of many of us in this chamber. He was always ready to lend any of us a helping hand and sound advice. I believe that Jim is the only person I have ever known who has been addressed as "Reverend," as "Father", and as "Rabbi" by Members of this body and our staffs.

Jim Ford, in fact is the first House Chaplain to devote himself full time to that position. This in itself is indicative of what a unique individual we are losing, and how his shoes will be so difficult to fill.

Chaplain Ford has been more than a clergyman, and far more than our House Chaplain. He has been a friend and confidant to many of us, and while we extend our best wishes and good health to Jim and Marcie upon this new venture in his life, we want him to know he will be sorely missed.

Accordingly, I am pleased to join my colleagues in support of H. Con. Res. 373, appointing Jim Ford as House Chaplain Emeritus.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, for the past 20 years, the House of Representatives has been well-served by our dedicated and beloved chaplain, the Reverend Dr. James Ford.

Seven days a week, year after year, Jim Ford has represented the absolute best in service to God and Country.

Much praise has deservedly been heaped upon Jim Ford as he marks his well-deserved retirement. Jim's many distinguished years of service (19) to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and his earlier years at Ivanhoe Lutheran Church in Minnesota are well-known and well-documented.

What isn't so well-known are his very early years in Minnesota and his legendary escape as a young ski-jumper at Theodore Wirth Park in Minneapolis. Let the record reflect that our own beloved chaplain, Dr. Jim Ford, still holds the record jump at the Theodore Wirth Ski-Jump—backward! That's right. When he was a very young Swede and a student at Edison High School in northeast Minneapolis, Jim Ford defied the laws of gravity and common sense and survived a backward jump on this notoriously steep ski slope and lived to tell about it!

They still talk proudly about their prominent alumnus at Edison High School in Northeast Minneapolis and at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota, where Jim starred in the classroom and the athletic field.

"You can take Jim Ford from Minnesota, but you can't take Minnesota from Jim Ford," was how his Gustavus classmate, the Rev. Bill Albertson put it recently. Some of you remember

my good friend, Bill Albertson, who served as a Guest Chaplain here several years ago.

Jim, on behalf of all Minnesotans, I salute you and thank you for your many ears of service. Thank you for being there in good times and hard times, in times of joy and sorrow. Thank you for your prayers, counsel, great wit and unparalleled ability to put things into perspective.

Thank you for caring so deeply about our families, our friends and our constituents.

Thank you for bringing Democrats, Republicans and Independents together under God. Thank you for bringing even the Swedes and Norwegians together!

May God bless you and Marcie always, just as your work here in the House has blessed us.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I've always thought of the great religious leaders over the ages to be strong men of substance with a hearty voice and good spirit. This of course perfectly describes our Chaplain, Jim Ford—a strong man, a kind man, an effective man. He comes to us from a long line of great religious leaders. We're going to miss him sorely.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time for allowing us to celebrate the life of our Chaplain, Jim Ford, and I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 373

Resolved, That immediately following his resignation as Chaplain of the House of Representatives and in recognition of the length of his devoted service to the House, Reverend James David Ford be, and he is hereby, appointed Chaplain emeritus of the House of Representatives.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution just adopted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces that there will be five 1-minutes on each side.

GOVERNMENT WASTE

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, last week President Clinton vetoed a bill that called for a 1 percent cut in discretionary spending. He said the loss would place too great a burden on American families.

The President's concern would best be served by insisting that his agencies are more responsible. The waste in government far exceeds the proposed 1 percent cut.

Here is a partial list of this waste. The Agriculture Department in 1997 erroneously issued \$1 billion in food stamps overpayments. In 1999, according to the audit, the Defense Department spent \$40 billion on overseas telecommunications systems that cannot be used. The Defense Department inventory contains \$11 billion worth of equipment that in 1997 was unneeded. Also in 1997 the government spent \$3.3 billion in loan guarantees for defaulted students. By 1996 the Department of Energy spent \$10 billion on 31 projects that were terminated before completion. HCFA in 1998 erroneously spent \$12.6 billion in overpayments to health care providers. HUD, \$857 million in erroneous rent subsidy payments in 1998. On and on we could go.

Mr. Speaker, every agency under the President can find fraud, waste and abuse to cut.

PRIVATE RELIEF LEGISLATION

(Ms. CARSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would provide for private relief for the benefit of Adela Bailor and Darryl Bailor. As my colleagues know, private relief is available in only rare instances. I believe that the circumstances surrounding the Bailors' case qualifies under the rules for private legislation.

The facts surrounding this case are clear and undisputed. Adela Bailor was working for Prison Fellowship Ministries in Fort Wayne, Indiana and was raped on May 9, 1991 by a Federal prisoner who had escaped from the Salvation Army Freedom Center, a halfway house in Chicago, Illinois.

What makes the Bailors' case special is that they were caught in a legal Catch-22. The Bailors filed suit against the Federal Bureau of Prisons and the Salvation Army, which ran the halfway house to which Mr. Holly was assigned. One of the requirements for all inmates at a halfway house is that they remain drug free and take a periodic drug test. Mr. Holly had a history of violence and drug abuse, including convictions for possession of heroin.

AMERICA'S VETERANS ARE THE FABRIC OF OUR NATION

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1